



THE SENATE SPOTLIGHT

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Georgia State Senate

June 2006

Georgia Delegation travels to Israel

A bipartisan group of Senators visits cities of Jerusalem, Tel Aviv, Haifa



Last month, a bipartisan Georgia legislative delegation visited the country of Israel. The group of ten Georgia lawmakers included Senate President Pro Tempore Eric Johnson, and state Senators George Hooks, Chip Rogers, Emanuel Jones, Joseph Carter and Kasim Reed.

The trip was privately funded by the American Jewish Committee. During their visit, the six state Senators toured Israel and parts of the West Bank. The group received briefings from the U.S. Ambassador to Israel, Israeli

military and government officials as well as Palestinians, settlers and foreign affairs experts.

“It was a fantastic opportunity to visit the Holy land and see the modern struggles of the Middle East up close,” said President Pro Tem Johnson. “During our visit, the group got a firsthand look at the new security fence being constructed between Israel and the West Bank. As the U.S. debates securing our border with Mexico, it was very appropriate to have seen this effort and to talk to those affected by it.”

During the delegation’s tour of Israel, the Senators also visited famous sites such as the Western or Wailing Wall in Jerusalem, which is a wall of prayer, and the beautiful city of Haifa. The Wall is said to be the remains of Solomon’s original temple after it was destroyed. Many events take place on a daily basis at the Western Wall, such as religious ceremonies and Bar Mitzvahs.



“Israel is such a beautiful country,” said Sen. Hooks. “We visited the Old City near the Wailing Wall, and we even went to swim in the Dead Sea. The country is so rich with history and culture, and the Israeli people were very friendly to us. I feel privileged to have been able to go there.”

While visiting the Israeli West Bank Barrier, the delegation received a detailed security briefing from a member of the Israeli Army. The barrier itself consists of a network of fences with vehicle-barrier trenches and concrete walls, and it was built to protect Israeli civilians from terrorist attacks.

Spotlight on... Governor Perdue receives Battle Flag from Georgia's 48th Brigade



Recently, Governor Sonny Perdue was presented with the battle flag of Georgia's 48th Brigade by Brigadier General Stewart Rodeheaver, Commander of the 48th Brigade Combat Team. The battle flag is the banner that 4,200 members of the 48th Brigade fought under during the unit's year-long combat deployment in Iraq. Gov. Perdue was given the flag as a symbol of the 48th Brigade's appreciation for his unwavering support of Georgia troops.

Governor Perdue, Major General David Poythress, Adjutant General of Georgia, and members of the state Senate, such as state Sen. Ross Tolleson and Chairman of the Senate Veterans and Military Affairs Committee, state Sen. John Douglas, were on hand for the presentation ceremony, as well as the 116th Army Band and other members of the 48th Brigade Combat Team.

Spotlight on... This month in Georgia History

June 16, 1868 – The first issue of the *Atlanta Constitution* was published.



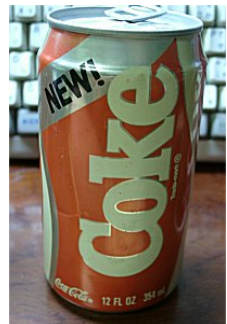
June 28, 1887 – Atlanta druggist and chemist John S. Pemberton registered his patent for "Coca-Cola Syrup and Extract."

June 10, 1915 – Thanks to the efforts of founder Juliette Gordon Low of Savannah, GA, the Girl Scouts of America was incorporated on this day in

Washington, D.C.

June 18, 1953 – Martin Luther King, Jr. married Coretta Scott at her parents' home in Marion, AL. The ceremony was conducted by Martin Luther King, Sr.

June 13, 1979 – Former Athens-area resident Kenny Rogers made it to the top of the pop charts with the single "She Believes in Me."



June 10, 1985 – After a dismal experience with a sweetened version of its 99-year-old formula, Atlanta-based Coca-Cola announced that it would bring back the popular soft drink in its original version (to be known as "Classic Coke").

June 10, 2004 – Georgia native Ray Charles, noted for his rendition of "Georgia on My Mind," died in Los Angeles, CA, at the age of 73.

Employee Spotlight on... Steve Eakin



What is your current job and/or assignments?

I am the Maintenance Carpenter for the State Capitol and the Coverdell Legislative Office Building. I handle all types of woodwork and repair, such as building custom wood furniture like book cases and shelves. In the past, I've also done light construction work here, like remodeling offices or building new walls. I also do a lot of work with the many different office doors, such as making minor adjustments and installing new locks. I guess you could say I do a little bit of everything in my position.

How did you end up at the General Assembly?

In 1999, I was working with a company called Mortensen Woodwork that the State had contracted to install new doors in the Capitol. It was at that point that I met Michael Bottoms, who now works in the IT

Division, and he let me know about a position in facilities management/maintenance that might be opening up. I expressed interest in the position, but I wasn't sure about it at the time. A few months later, I ran into Don Hutchins, who was the facilities manager at the time, and I told him I'd be interested in the job. Shortly after that, Michael moved over to the IT department (known as "LAN Support" at the time), and I replaced him in the maintenance area.

Tell me a little about your background. Birthplace, brothers and sisters, etc.

I am from Fayetteville, TN. As a young man, I moved to Chattanooga and I was working in construction there. I became aware of the growing construction industry in Atlanta, and my wife Robin and I moved here so I could get more work in construction. I have been in construction and carpentry for nearly 20 years now. My mother and my older brother Dennis still reside in Fayetteville. My wife and I have a daughter, Elizabeth, and a son, Phillip, who is a junior in high school. The newest addition to our family is my 18-month-old granddaughter, Kylie.

Tell us some of your fondest memories of working with the General Assembly.

I would say that the fondest memories I have of working in and around the General Assembly involve my work in the woodshop. I truly enjoy woodworking and taking on new projects, whether it is something simple like working on trim, or something complex like building a new piece of furniture. I really feel like I am in my element when I'm working in the woodshop. The best piece of furniture I've built up here is the display case located just outside of House Clerk Robbie Rivers' office. It was very fun to build that piece.

Tell us about your hobbies and/or what you enjoy doing away from work...

When I'm at home, I really like working on our cars. We own domestic cars – a Ford, a Chevy and a Dodge – and I like to do all the repairs and maintenance myself. I don't really have a "classic" car to work on yet, but maybe someday in the future I'll try my hand at that too. Of course, I also like to work on our house, and I do the majority of the home maintenance and repair myself. I enjoy attending church services with my family, and I also love spending time with our granddaughter Kylie.

The General Assembly can be an exciting place to work. What are some of the aspects of your position that you enjoy the most?

One thing I've experienced here is learning new techniques and skills from my co-workers. Maintenance and renovation work is so complex, and there are so many different areas of expertise. Whether it be plumbing, electrical, HVAC, etc., there's someone I work with daily who is an expert on the subject. I spend my time here working hard, and trying to learn as much as I can about fixing everything there is to fix. Again, I really enjoy working on new carpentry projects, as that is my area of expertise and my "first love" so to speak.

Senate Budget's Spotlight on... Monthly numbers



The revenue collected by the Department of Revenue for May 2006 (FY 06) was \$1,673,929,000. This is an increase of 16 percent when compared to the revenue collected in May 2005 (FY 05), which was \$1,443,257,000.

The percentage increase year-to-date for Fiscal Year 2006 (FY 06) is 9.8 percent when compared to Fiscal Year 2005 (FY 05).

Senate Spotlight on . . . June Birthdays



HAPPY BIRTHDAY to . . .



Senator Ronnie Chance

Senator Tim Golden

Senator Kasim Reed

Senator Nancy Schaefer

Senator Terrell Starr

Asenith Dixon- Senate Research Office

Glynnell Lewis- Senate Budget Office

Barbara Turpeau- Legislative Counsel

Rick Ruskell- Legislative Counsel

Tracy Cochran- Legislative Counsel

Michelle Simmons- Secretary of the Senate's Office

Courtney Glanville- Senate Budget Office

Scott Henry- Director, IT Division

June 6th

June 3rd

June 10th

June 28th

June 5th

June 6th

June 20th

June 21st

June 28th

June 28th

June 5th

June 12th

June 10th



Summer is here!

The Senate Press Office hopes that all Senators and Senate staff will enjoy summer 2006, which begins June 21. We also would like to wish everyone a Happy July 4th!

The Senate Spotlight is a product of the Senate Press Office. If you have a suggestion, a person you would like to nominate for the Employee Spotlight or would like to contribute a Senate-related article, please contact us at 404.656.0028.